

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## MOLYBDENUM IN MARCH 2000

Domestic production of molybdenum in concentrate in March 2000 was about 14% more than that of the previous month and was 25% less than that of March 1999, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Producer stocks of molybdenum in concentrate, oxide, and other product forms were 9,900 metric tons at the beginning of 2000 and 8,750 metric tons at the end of March 2000.

Included in this Mineral Industry Surveys are U.S. production and shipments of molybdenum concentrates and materials, plus U.S. consumption, by end use, and stocks, by material, of molybdenum in the previous and current months; also included are

trade data for the previous month. During the current month, Platt's Metals Week U.S. monthly average price for molybdenum concentrate was \$3.748 per kilogram (\$1.700 per pound). The average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$5.622 per kilogram (\$2.555 per pound), and that for dealer ferromolybdenum was \$7.606 per kilogram (\$3.450 per pound).

For the week ending May 15, 2000, Metals Week average price for dealer molybdenum oxide was \$5.732 per kilogram (\$2.600 per pound), and that for ferromolybdenum was \$7.601 per kilogram (\$3.475 per pound).

TABLE 1  
U.S. SALIENT MOLYBDENUM CONCENTRATE STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	1999	2000		Year to date
	January-December	February	March	
Production	43,000	2,630	3,000	8,540
Shipments: 2/				
Domestic	28,800	1,100	1,220	3,490
Export	11,900	1,190	806	3,150

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes molybdic oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 2  
U.S. REPORTED PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, contained molybdenum)

	1999	2000		Year to date
	January-December	February	March	
Gross production	39,800	3,460	4,170	11,200
Internal consumption 2/	20,500	1,920	2,080	5,910
Gross shipments	39,000	3,160	3,860	10,800

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes molybdic oxides, metal powder, ammonium molybdate, sodium molybdate, and other.

TABLE 3  
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdic oxides	Ferro molybdenum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molybdenum scrap	Other	Total
2000, February:						
Steel:						
Carbon	31,100	23,900	--	--	3,190	58,200
High-strength low-alloy	28,800	8,560	--	--	--	37,400
Stainless and heat-resisting	255,000	44,300	--	--	4,760	304,000
Full alloy	155,000	174,000	--	--	2,330	332,000
Tool	W	9,730	--	--	1,450	11,200
Total	471,000	261,000	--	--	11,700	743,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	1,970	30,100	--	--	763	32,900
Superalloys	50,300	W	--	(3/)	70,600	121,000
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	6	6
Other alloys	W	2,220	--	--	6,290	8,510
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	171,000	171,000
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	--	--	--	13	13
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	2,180	--	--	2,180
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	W	77,300
Other	W	--	--	--	1,710	1,710
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	11,000	11,000
Other	89,100	5,130	73,700	--	14,900	183,000
Grand total	689,000	298,000	75,900	--	288,000	1,350,000
Stocks, February 29, 2000	764,000	191,000	5,190	44,700	852,000	1,860,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 3--Continued  
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USES, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF MOLYBDENUM MATERIALS 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

End use	Molybdic oxides	Ferro molybdenum 2/	Ammonium and sodium molybdate	Molybdenum scrap	Other	Total
2000, March:						
Steel:						
Carbon	35,100	25,900	--	--	3,190	64,200
High-strength low-alloy	32,700	8,970	--	--	--	41,600
Stainless and heat-resisting	307,000	48,700	--	--	4,760	360,000
Full alloy	199,000	188,000	--	--	2,330	389,000
Tool	W	10,900	--	--	1,450	12,300
Total	573,000	282,000	--	--	11,700	867,000
Cast irons (gray, malleable, and ductile iron)	1,780	42,500	--	--	763	45,100
Superalloys	92,600	W	--	(3/)	91,300	184,000
Alloys: (other than steels, cast irons, and superalloys)						
Welding materials (structural and hard-facing)	--	W	--	--	6	6
Other alloys	W	6,770	--	--	6,290	13,100
Mill products made from metal powder 4/	--	--	--	--	190,000	190,000
Cemented carbides and related products 5/	--	--	--	--	15	15
Chemical and ceramic uses:						
Pigments	--	--	W	--	--	W
Catalysts	77,300	--	W	--	W	77,300
Other	W	--	--	--	1,710	1,710
Miscellaneous and unspecified uses:						
Lubricants	--	--	--	--	14,100	14,100
Other	98,200	5,130	77,500	--	14,900	196,000
Grand total	843,000	336,000	77,500	--	331,000	1,590,000
Stocks, March 31, 2000	635,000	212,000	5,720	33,300	846,000	1,730,000

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other" of the "Miscellaneous and unspecified uses" category. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium molybdate.

3/ Included in "Other" of the "Superalloys" category.

4/ Includes ingot, wire, rod, and sheet.

5/ Includes construction, mining, oil and gas, metal working machinery.

TABLE 4  
U.S. EXPORTS OF MOLYBDENUM ORES AND CONCENTRATES  
(including roasted concentrate), BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

Country	1999	2000		
	January-December	January	February	Year to date
Australia	41,100	6,540	--	6,540
Belgium	4,740,000	193,000	353,000	547,000
Brazil	66,800	--	2,690	2,690
Canada	1,350,000	262,000	188,000	450,000
Chile	2,420,000	5,000	1,250	6,250
China	1,190,000	30,600	439,000	469,000
Germany	122,000	287,000	23,500	311,000
Italy	264,000	22,700	33,800	56,500
Japan	2,320,000	190,000	178,000	368,000
Korea, Republic of	210,000	590	885	1,480
Mexico	129,000	--	1,630	1,630
Netherlands	8,620,000	1,110,000	424,000	1,540,000
Spain	25,100	--	11,400	11,400
Sweden	613,000	94,100	23,800	118,000
United Kingdom	5,530,000	370,000	253,000	622,000
Other	207,000	590	14,000	14,600
Total	27,900,000	2,580,000	1,950,000	4,520,000

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5  
U.S. EXPORTS OF FERROMOLYBDENUM, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Kilograms, contained molybdenum)

	1999	2000		
	January-December	January	February	Year to date
Australia	20,900	1,140	--	1,140
Canada	5,020,000	50,300	55,800	106,000
China	3,270,000	--	--	--
Japan	3,230,000	5,150	7,220	12,400
Korea, Republic of	168,000	--	--	--
Mexico	654,000	4,330	5,190	9,520
Other	8,470	--	--	--
Total	12,400,000	60,900	68,200	129,000

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF MOLYBDENUM PRODUCTS 1/

(Kilograms unless otherwise specified)

Material	January-December 1999			February 2000		
	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)	Gross weight	Contained molybdenum	Value (c.i.f.) (thousands)
Ore and concentrates roasted	8,020,000	5,090,000	\$39,600	477,000	305,000	\$1,770
Ore and concentrates other	2,710,000	1,480,000	7,810	508,000	299,000	1,580
Molybdenum chemicals:						
Oxides and hydroxides	1,180,000	NA	9,610	178,000	NA	1,170
Molybdates of ammonium	1,240,000	684,000	8,980	246,000	139,000	1,290
Molybdates (all others)	192,000	114,000	982	36,000	35,800	144
Molybdenum orange	2,050,000	NA	7,950	208,000	NA	845
Ferromolybdenum	7,690,000	4,830,000	44,000	464,000	299,000	1,960
Molybdenum powders	110,000	103,000	3,210	8,230	8,080	227
Molybdenum unwrought	145,000	137,000	2,110	--	--	--
Molybdenum waste and scrap	296,000	292,000	4,080	4,000	3,980	50
Molybdenum wire	5,530	NA	500	37	NA	16
Molybdenum other	7,850	NA	1,650	43	NA	74
Total	23,700,000	12,700,000	130,000	2,130,000	1,090,000	9,130

NA Not available. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.